



Week 2 Assignment

Overview

The Texas Campus STaR Chart was developed around the four key domains of the Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020: Teaching and Learning; Educator Preparation and Development; Leadership, Administration, and Instructional Support; and Infrastructure for Technology. The STaR Chart is designed to help campuses determine their progress toward meeting both Long-Range Plan and district goals.

In the Week 1 assignment, you summarized the Long-Range Plan and the Technology Applications TEKS, and completed a self-assessment of the requisite skills that you need to implement the TEKS.

In this week's assignment, you will look at the strengths and weaknesses of your campus as you examine and apply data from the Texas Campus STaR Chart, a technology data-gathering tool provided by the state. You will complete a three-year comparison of Texas Campus STaR Chart data from your campus with statewide summary data. Like the resources you utilized in your Analysis assignment, the STaR chart will prove useful as you become an instructional leader. You will practice using a Web 2.0 tool to reflect on your learning and also create a slide presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Presentation to introduce and present your campus STaR chart findings to the faculty.

Rubric

Use the following Rubric to guide your work on the Week 2 Assignment.

Tasks ↓	Accomplished	Proficient	Progressing	Not Meeting Expectations
Campus STaR Chart Analysis	Student uses relevant STaR Chart information to thoroughly complete the chart provided. Student comprehensively responds to all questions. (3 points)	Student uses relevant STaR chart to fill out most of the chart provided. Student provides a brief analysis of campus technology strengths and weaknesses. (2 points)	Incorrect data pulled from STaR Chart, STaR data summary chart is not completed. Student does not respond to all questions. (1 point)	Student does not complete the chart provided. Student does not respond to the questions. (0 points)
Creating and Using a Blog	Student successfully sets up a blog and provides appropriate information related to the blog's creation or to previously-created blog; student posts a thoughtful, at least 250-word opinion piece on one of the four areas of The Texas Long Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020. The opinion piece includes (1) a description of the area, (2) progress in the area – including local, state and national, (3) trends in the area – including local, state and national, and (4) recommendation for improvement in the area. (2 points)	Student successfully sets up a blog and provides appropriate information and student posts a less than 250 word opinion piece and/or opinion piece includes less than four components in the “accomplished” category. (1 point)		Blog not created, and/or student does not write an opinion piece and post it on blog. (0 points)
Create a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with faculty.	Student successfully creates a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with the faculty and posts the presentation on their blog. The presentation includes (1) an	Successfully creates a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with faculty and posts the presentation on their blog. The presentation includes	Successfully creates a slide presentation to share campus STaR Chart findings with faculty and posts the presentation on their blog. The presentation includes at least four of the	Slide presentation not created and/or slide presentation not posted on the students' blog and/or slide presentation created and posted on students' blog but includes at least three

	<p>introduction/agenda, (2) content relevant to the topic, (3) summary/conclusion (4) at least one student-created chart of the STaR chart data, (5) at least one working hyperlink, (6) navigational icons, (7) talking points only with six or less lines of text per slide, (8) up to three digital photos to personalize the campus.</p> <p>(3 points)</p>	<p>at least six of the eight components in the “accomplished” category.</p> <p>(2 points)</p>	<p>eight components in the “accomplished” category.</p> <p>(1 point)</p>	<p>of the eight components listed in the “accomplished” category.</p> <p>(0 points)</p>
Assignment Mechanics	<p>Responses are relevant to course content; student uses correct APA writing mechanics; no errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.</p> <p>(2 points)</p>	<p>Responses are relevant to course content; few errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation, including APA writing mechanics.</p> <p>(1 point)</p>		<p>Responses do not reflect knowledge of course content, lack clarity and depth, and/or include multiple errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation, including APA errors.</p> <p>(0 points)</p>

Week 2 Assignment, Part 1: Campus STaR Chart Analysis

State law mandates that the Texas Campus STaR Chart be used to evaluate a campus' progress toward meeting the goals of the Long-Range Plan for Technology. The chart can also be used for technology planning, budgeting for resources, and evaluation of progress in local technology projects.

To complete this assignment:

- Access the Texas Campus StaR Chart by entering the following address in your web address bar:
<http://starchart.esc12.net/>
- Click on "Texas Campus STaR Chart," and read the article to review STaR Chart scoring.
- Click on "Statewide Summary Data." Click on 2007-2008 Summary Statistics. Print out the Statewide Data Summary.
- Click "Campus Data Search." Choose the year from the drop-down box. Then type in the name of your selected district (without "ISD"). For example, for Beaumont ISD, you would only type in Beaumont. Do not type in a campus. Click "Simple Search." A list of campuses in your district will appear.
- Click on your selected campus, and the STaR chart will appear.
- Print out the most current three years of STaR Charts for your selected campus.
- Analyze the data, fill out the chart below, and answer the questions provided.

School District: NCISD Campus: White Oak Middle School			
Summary Area	Key Area Totals	Key Area STaR Classifications	Trends
Teaching & Learning	2008-09: 12 2007-08: 13 2006-07: 11	2008-09: Developing 2007-08: Developing 2006-07: Developing	Over the three-year period the data reveals that there is little to no change.
Educator Preparation & Development	2008-09: 12 2007-08: 13 2006-07: 14	2008-09: Developing 2007-08: Developing 2006-07: Developing	During the designated time frame the data reveals that our campus is trending backwards.
Leadership, Administration, & Instructional Support	2008-09: 13 2007-08: 15 2006-07: 14	2008-09: Developing 2007-08: Advanced 2006-07: Developing	During the designated time period the data reveals that our campus may have possibly peaked during the 2007-2008 school year.
Infrastructure for Technology	2008-09: 15 2007-08: 16 2006-07: 16	2008-09: Developing 2007-08: Advanced 2006-07: Advanced	During the designated time frame our campus is displaying a lack of improvement.

- 1) What did the STaR Chart show as your campus' greatest strength? Do you agree with that assessment? Explain.

According to the data in the STaR chart, my campus' greatest strength is the teaching learning area. It is the only category in which my campus is still above the 2006-2007 score. I would agree with that assessment because; most of the staff members at my campus have some working knowledge of integrating technology into their lessons.

- 2) What did the STaR Chart show as your campus' greatest weakness? Do you agree with that assessment? Explain.

According to the data in the Texas STaR chart, my campus' greatest weakness is in the educator Preparation and development area. I strongly agree with the data. My campus is falling behind in its ability to offer informative and useful professional development opportunities. The training that is offered is basic training, they do not offer training to help our teachers create student-centered

learning lessons.

- 3) In an online learning community interaction, which STaR Chart area would you choose to introduce to the other members? What data supports your choice?

I would introduce the educator preparation and development area to interact with others in an online community. I would again stress the importance professional development as a catalyst to integrate more student-centered learning. The data is trending backwards. My campus has dropped two points over the last three school years, and it should be moving towards the advanced level. If this trend continues, in the next three years will be more reliant on traditional learning styles instead of the more progressive student-centered style of learning.

Week 2 Assignment, Part 2: Creating and Using a Blog

For the next part of this week's assignment, you will create your own blog and post an opinion piece on one of the four areas of the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020. If you already have your own blog, you may publish your piece on your blog. If you don't have your own blog, use the directions below to create one.

To complete this assignment:

- Access the video, "Blogs in Plain English" by entering the following address in your web address bar: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NN2I1pWXjXI>
- View "Blogs in Plain English" as preparation for this assignment.
- Enter the following address in your web address bar: www.blogger.com (if you do not have a blog), or use a blog you already have set up.
- Read the information about the site.
- Click "Create a Blog." Complete the information required to use the site, including the selection of a username and password. (If you already have a Google account, you can enter your username and password at the top of the home page.) Check the box to accept the terms of service, and click "Continue" to move to the next step.
- After creating your blog account, click "Name Blog."
- Select a title for the blog (example: "TX Long Range Plan" or something a little more creative) and a blog address URL (example: <http://yourname.blogspot.com>). Click "Continue" to move to the next step, "Choose a Template."
- Choose a template for your blog, then click "Continue."
- When the "Your Blog Has Been Created" screen appears, click "Start Blogging."
- On the screen provided, compose a 250-word opinion piece on one of the four areas of the Texas Long Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020: *Teaching and Learning; Educator Preparation and Development; Leadership, Administration and Instructional Support; or Infrastructure for Technology*. You may discuss the area as it relates to your campus or the area in general. Include:
 - 1) a description of the area.
 - 2) progress in the area (include local, state and national progress).
 - 3) trends in the area (include local, state and national progress).
 - 4) your recommendations for improvement in the area.
- Record your blog information in the chart below. If you have a blog and did not need to create one for the assignment, enter that information. Then answer the questions on the next page.

Your Blog's Name	Your Blog's URL
A Vision of Technology in Texas	http://jasondgreer.blogspot.com

1) What is the educational value of blogs and blogging to the 21st century learner?

I have been using blogs in my classroom for a couple of years now and have found them to be very resourceful for several reasons. First of all blogs can provide helpful information on a variety of topics. Secondly, blogs have no borders, students can share ideas and reflect on work being undertaken in the classroom. Finally, blogging is not only resourceful for students, but teachers can find it a viable classroom means for to communicate with other teachers. Blogging in a controlled environment can encourage both staff and students, proving that there are thousands of others learning and discovering at the same time.

2) What are the concerns of blogs and blogging in education?

Blogging can be a very resourceful tool in the classroom, but there are some several concerns that educators should be aware of. The students might access inappropriate content online. At my campus I have to put in a special request in advance of my students accessing their blogs to prevent them from accessing inappropriate content. Another concern that educators should be aware of is inappropriate sharing. Lastly, educators should be aware of cyber stalkers, predators, or bullies. Our campus has taken an active role in preventing cyber bullying, including the opportunity for parents and educators to attend workshops.

3) How can you use blogging to communicate with school stakeholders?

Blogging has become an important communication tool through the past couple of years. The blogosphere is single handedly striking a major blow to traditional media outlets. As an educational blogger I can reflect on my personal teaching experiences, and pass them along to stakeholders. Hopefully, my posts would help to spur a discussion that would help bring a change to educational community as outlined in the Texas Long Range Plan.

Week 2 Assignment, Part 3: Creating and posting a Slide Presentation

As an instructional leader, you must be able to effectively share information with the faculty. You must also be able to talk confidently to those you lead. Throughout this Application Assignment, you will expand your knowledge and practice using technology tools. Presentation software, such as Microsoft PowerPoint and Google Presentation, is used to communicate ideas or information through text, images, animations, audio and video.

In Part 3 of the Application assignment, you will create a slide presentation to introduce the Texas STaR Chart and share your campus STaR Chart findings with the faculty. After you create your slide presentation you will post your presentation to your blog.

Resources for Effective Presentations:

- <http://www.garreynolds.com/Presentation/slides.html>
- <http://www.shkaminski.com/Classes/Handouts/powerpoint.htm#strengths>
- http://kinesiology.boisestate.edu/kines442/tips_for_making_effective_powerp.htm
- www.iasted.org/conferences/formatting/Presentations-Tips.ppt
- <http://faculty.baruch.cuny.edu/blsci/main/details.asp?docid=156>

Directions:

1. Create a slide presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint or Google Presentation to introduce the Texas STaR Chart and share your campus STaR Chart findings with the faculty.
 - 1) Include an introduction/agenda
 - 2) Include content relevant to the topic
 - 3) Include a summary/conclusion
 - 4) Include at least one student-created chart of the STaR chart data
 - 5) Include at least one working hyperlink
 - 6) Use navigational icons
 - 7) Use talking points only with six or less lines of text
 - 8) Use up to three digital photos to personalize the campus
2. Upload/Embed your presentation to your Blog.

Microsoft PowerPoint Instructions:

To share a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation in your blog, you must first upload the presentation to a Web-based service, such as SlideShare.net, authorSTREAM.com, or Scribd.com, that will convert the file to a format that can be embedded into your blog.

Directions for authorSTREAM:

1. Go to www.authorSTREAM and click “JOIN NOW” from the menu at the top of the page to set up a FREE SlideShare account.
2. Select “Upload PowerPoint” (from menu across top of screen).
3. From the drop-down menu, select “Single File Upload”.
4. Click “Browse...” to select your saved PowerPoint file.
5. Complete the “Title information” and select “Private”
6. Next select “Upload PowerPoint”

7. After you receive the message your file has uploaded, select “**Your Stuff**” from the menu across the top of the screen.
8. From the drop-down menu, select “**Your Presentations**”
9. Select “**Send to Blogs & Networks**” (from menu on righthand side of screen)
10. Select “**Blogger**”
11. Enter your Blog’s **Username** and **Password** (Note: The **Blog** field is your blog’s URL. This should populate by default; if not, enter your blog’s URL.
12. Select “**Post**”

Directions for SlideShare:

1. Go to www.slideshare.net and click “SIGNUP” (at the top of the page) to set up a FREE SlideShare account.
1. Click “**UPLOAD**”
2. Click “**Browse and select files**” and select your saved Powerpoint presentation.
3. After your file is uploaded, you will be asked to choose settings for your file. You have the option to share publicly or privately (viewable only to you). Once you have selected your settings, click “**Publish All**”.
4. After a while your file will be converted. The conversion may take a few minutes depending on the size of your file. Click “here” to view status of the file conversion.
5. When conversion is complete, click “**Update**”
6. Select “**My SlideSpace**” from the menubar at the top of the page.
7. Click “**your presentation**”
8. Select “**Post to Blogger**” from menubar below your presentation.
9. When the Google Accounts Access Request Screen appears, click “**Grant Access**”.
10. On the next screen:
 - a. Select a title for the blog post (example: Texas STaR Chart Presentation or something a bit more creative.)
 - b. Then, enter the text for the post, i. e. the executive summary of your presentation.
 - c. Confirm the “**Post To**” information is correct. This should be the **Name** and **URL** of your blog.

Finally, click “**Blog this!**”.

(Note: You may need to change the Zoom Level to be able to click “**Blog this**”)

Google Presentation Instructions:

1. After you have completed and saved your presentation, select “**Share**” from the menubar (at the top of the page). From the drop down menu, select “**Publish/embed**”.
2. On the next screen, select “**Publish document**”.
3. Once the document is published on the web on the next screen, you will need to select the presentation size (small or medium is adequate) and copy the code in the box (make sure you highlight ALL the code, then press **<CTRL C>**).
4. Open your blog, sign in, and select “**New Post**”.
5. On the next screen:

- a. Select a title for the blog post (example: Texas STaR Chart Presentation or something a bit more creative.)
 - b. Then, enter the text for the post, i. e. the executive summary of your presentation. Press **<Enter>**.
 - c. Next, select the **“Edit HTML”** tab across the top of the text box.
 - d. Paste the code you copy in step 3 in the text box. Press **<CTRL V>**.
 - e. Select **“Preview”** to preview your post.
6. Finally, click **“Publish Post”**.